

Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Areas 2016-17 Waterfowl Report

For the Week of January 2, 2017

WALK-IN AREAS

No hunter reports this week from the walk-in fields west of 1804 and down into the west side of Okobojo Creek, however there were some birds coming out of Okobojo Creek going over the fields along 1804 last week and weekend.

REGISTRATION AREA

During the holiday week the registration trailer and fields saw a lot more hunters using the fields with most groups getting some birds throughout the area. Most of the access trails going into the fields are good, with only a handful of fields that we have not been able to get access into yet.

Even with the 27th Annual Youth Goose Hunt which will be taking place on January 6, 7 and 8 there will still be plenty of registration fields for hunters to choose from.

An aerial survey of the Missouri river is scheduled for this week as long as the weather in the Pierre area allows the plane to safely fly at the low elevations required to conduct the survey.

PASS-SHOOTING AREAS

Reports on Sunday were of several flocks coming out over the canal west of Highway 1804 with a few hunters out taking advantage of the low flying birds coming out. Birds coming out of the Spring Creek/Nystrom Bay area were scattered but there were several flocks that came out low enough for some good pass shooting opportunities.

SOLID AND STRIPED GREEN AREAS

The flight of birds going out west of Ft. Pierre has continued to be good with groups of hunters setting out decoys in the field and having success. Access into the fields is rather tough though with some hunters using a snowmobile or UTV down the designated trails to get their decoys out or pulling a sled out into the field with decoys and setting up. The flight East of Grey Goose Road through the solid and striped green areas was decent late last week and through the weekend however there were no reports if there were any hunters in the area.

SUMMARY

An aerial survey of the Missouri river is scheduled for this week as long as the weather in the Pierre area allows the plane to safely fly at the low elevations required to conduct the survey.

There are a few openings for the women's goose hunt taking place in the Pierre area January 20, 21 and 22 for more information about this event contact Maggie Lindsey, Education Services Coordinator at 605-223- 7667. This event is limited to 12 participants with pre-registration required.

The 27th Annual South Dakota Youth Goose Hunt will be taking place on January 6, 7 and 8. This event is open to any youth ages 12-15. Requirements for this event are that all kids must have completed hunt safe education course, bring warm hunting type clothes, and a shotgun. Shells, breakfast and lunch will be provided on Saturday and Sunday, with supper being provided on Saturday evening before the seminar. More information can be found in the flier on the GFP page.

For those hunters planning on making a trip out to hunt during the youth hunt weekend there will still be plenty of open fields for you to choose from with the drawing for the decoy-only registration fields taking place one hour before sunrise.

To see what areas are closed for the youth hunt you can check out the field status map on the bottom of the Lower Oahe page or by loading the GFP app to your phone and keep updated on fields that are open or closed along with the types of crops in the fields.